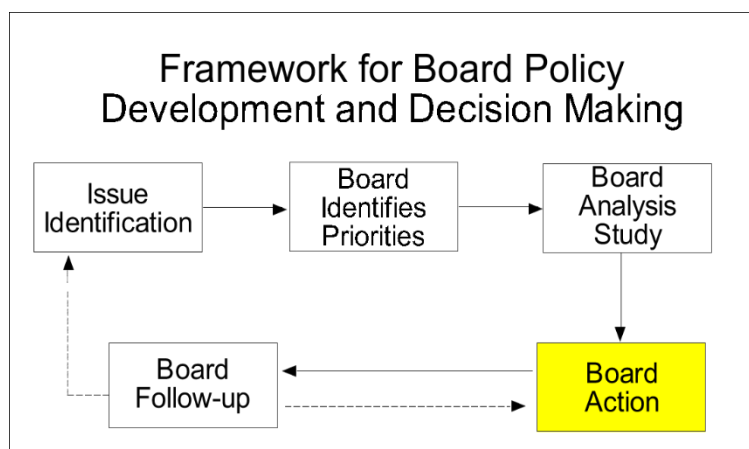


Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

May 11, 2017



Agenda Item: Area Education Agency 267 Paraeducator Preparation Program Approval

Iowa Goal(s): Goal 1: All children will enter school ready to learn.
Goal 2: All PK -12 students will achieve at a high level.

State Board Role/Authority: 281 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 80 grants authority to the State Board of Education to set standards and procedures for the approval of programs for individuals who seek a paraeducator certification issued by the Board of Educational Examiners.

Presenter(s): Marietta Rives, Consultant
Bureau of Educator Quality

Attachment(s): One

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board approve a conditional, one-year Special Needs paraeducator preparation program submitted by AEA 267. This program approval will extend through March 2018.

Background: Legislation originally passed in 1998 and revised in 2000 created a voluntary paraeducator certification. The legislation was prompted by the need to have well-trained paraeducators providing assistance to students and teachers. Licensure rules were established by the Board of Educational Examiners. The State Board approves the voluntary preparation programs according to standards and procedures contained in Chapter 80 of the Iowa Administrative Code.

Since 2015, AEA 267 has been building a comprehensive paraeducator certification program. In 2015, the Generalist I program was approved and in 2016 an Early Childhood program was approved. This agency has continued to grow their offerings for paraeducators and are now seeking approval of a Special Needs program. In an effort to better develop the content of this Special Needs program and to keep approval processes in sync, it is requested that this program be approved through March of 2018.

**Program Recommended for Approval
May 11, 2017**

AEA 267 Paraeducator Program to include:
Special Needs Area of Concentration

The institution named above has submitted a request for approval or re-approval of programs to certify paraeducators in each of the listed content areas. Iowa's voluntary paraeducator certification program is one way for paraeducators to meet the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act. Although the paraeducator certification program is voluntary, there are benefits to having paraeducators certified. One benefit of this program is that certification will establish realistic opportunities for upward mobility through a career ladder pathway for paraeducators. Additional benefits include:

1. All learners will be better served and the quality of education and related services will improve with the availability of a better-prepared paraeducator workforce.
2. Paraeducators have mastered skills that are required to support and supplement teacher/provider programs.

The program has been reviewed. In reviewing the program, it was important to look for three major components:

1. Verification that each of the standards included in Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 80 have been met.
2. Verification that all standards and competencies of Chapter 22, Board of Educational Examiners administrative rules were included.
3. Verification that criteria to evaluate performance of the standards were present and appropriate.

Strengths of the program:

- Certification competencies are aligned to specific course assessments.
- Performance assessments are distributed throughout the curriculum.

Recommendation:

Based upon the review of the Special Needs Area of Concentration program components submitted for consideration, the AEA 267 paraeducator program is recommended for a conditional approval until additional artifacts are submitted for review. This conditional approval will extend through March 2018.